

HB 242 -- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT FUND

SPONSOR: Ellington

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on International Trade by a vote of 9 to 0. Rules Committee voted "Do Pass - Not Consent."

This bill establishes the Economic Development Grant Program to be administered by the Department of Economic Development. Moneys deposited into the grant program from state appropriations or any gifts, bequests, or donations will be used by a company to reopen a manufacturing factory that has been closed. The department must develop a procedure for a company to apply for the grant. If appropriations are insufficient in any given fiscal year to fund all grants, each award will be reduced pro rata as necessary.

The provisions of the bill will expire six years after the effective date.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will provide an economic development tool to attract businesses to the state.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Ellington; and Associated Industries of Missouri.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say there are businesses in Europe that are interested in moving operations to Missouri and this bill would make that decision more inviting.

Testifying on the bill was Parker Vena, MCS Corporate PLC.